

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-95. (Cancelled).

96. (Previously Presented) A digital computer having at least one display for displaying information, exhibiting, comprising:

a) a housing having at least one front surface, facing a user viewing the display, side edge faces and a rear surface opposite to the front surface,

b) an input device having input means on at least one surface for at least one of inputting and manipulating information, the input device being an input module which is movable from a position accessible at the front face of the computer with respect to the housing to a position in an oppositely facing orientation that enables the inputting or manipulating of information at the rear surface of the digital computer housing instead of at the front surface of the computer housing, and is electrically connected to the digital computer via at least one interface, said input device also being operable for inputting or manipulating of information in a decoupled state disengaged from the housing.

97. (Previously Presented) The digital computer as claimed in claim 96, wherein the input module is usable as an external mouse device when it is mechanically decoupled from the digital computer.

98. (Previously Presented) The digital computer as claimed in claim 96, wherein the input module is constructed as at least one of

- a special module having a joystick,
- a chip card receiving module,
- an adapter card module for network connections and other system expansion modules,
- a module for receiving and/or transmitting satellite signals,
- a telecommunication module,

- a position finding module (GPS, Galileo),
- a mobile radio telephone,
- a PDA,
- a remote control,
- a USB or FireWire interface module,
- a display module with pin and/or key input,
- a media player, and
- a laser pointer.

99. (Previously Presented) The digital computer as claimed in claim 96, wherein the at least one of inputting and manipulating of information by means of the input module comprises means for performing at least one of the functions from the following group of functions :

- inputting of relative location data for controlling a cursor on the display of the digital computer by a corresponding movement of a hand or of at least one finger of a hand of a user,

- inserting of menus and selection information,
- paging,
- scrolling
- switching into another operating mode,
- setting up at least one of device and software characteristics,
- providing information on the display,
- selecting information on the display,
- at least one of selecting and marking information displayed on the display,
- moving information displayed on the display,
- confirming marked information or information input,
- inputting PIN or password information,
- switching the digital computer on and off,
- switching the screen on and off,

- activating and deactivating of a pen input mode, and
- activating and deactivating of an energy saving mode.

100. (Previously Presented) The digital computer as claimed in claim 96, wherein the input module, as operating element, has at least one of a slide pad, a key, a jog dial, a rollerball, a capacitive sensor, a pressure-sensitive screen, a multifunction key, a 4-WAY rocker key and other keys.

101. (Previously Presented) The digital computer as claimed in claim 96, wherein the digital computer has a coupling bay which receives the input module so that it can be reached from at least two sides.

102. (Previously Presented) The digital computer as claimed in claim 96, wherein at least one of the input module and the digital computer is configured by means of a relative movement of the input module which is movable with respect to the housing.

103. (Currently Amended) The digital computer as claimed in claim 101, [[102,]] wherein, for performing the relative movement for configuring, the input module is removable from the coupling bay and selectively insertable into the coupling bay in each of positions which are rotated with respect to each other about a vertical or a horizontal axis.

104. (Previously Presented) The digital computer as claimed in claim 103, wherein at least one of the coupling bay and at the input module is provided with at least one further interface for use with the changed orientation.

105. (Previously Presented) The digital computer as claimed in claim 102, wherein the input module is pivotable about a pivot axis which is located parallel to the input surface for producing the relative movement for configuring.

106. (Currently Amended) The digital computer as claimed in claim 101, [[96,]] wherein the input module has input means on at least two sides for operating thereof from at least two sides in the coupled state in the coupling bay.

107. (Previously Presented) The digital computer as claimed in claim 96, wherein the digital computer and the input module have a plurality of input means which are operatable in combination for inputting.

108. (Previously Presented) The digital computer as claimed in claim 96, wherein the digital computer has a rear coupling bay on its rear surface; wherein the input module is removable and insertable into the rear coupling bay and a second coupling bay on the front surface, and is an operable as external mouse module in a mechanically decoupled state.

109. (Previously Presented) The digital computer as claimed in claim 96, wherein the operating mode of at least one of the input means and of the display are settable in dependence on at least one of the configuration of the input device and the device attitude or position.

110. (Previously Presented) The digital computer as claimed in claim 96, wherein the input module has its own battery which, in the inserted state, is chargeable via the mobile digital computer.

111. (Previously Presented) The digital computer as claimed in claim 96, wherein means for establishing an effective coupling between the digital computer and the input module for data transmission by at least one of a radio signal, an infrared signal and in wire-connected manner is provided.

112. (Previously Presented) The digital computer as claimed in claim 96, wherein at least one interface of the input module provides both for power supply and data traffic.

113. (Previously Presented) The digital computer as claimed in claim 96, wherein the input module has means for switching, when mechanically decoupled, to a wireless data connection and remains effective as external input module.

114. (Currently Amended) A digital computer having at least one display for displaying information, exhibiting, comprising:

a) a housing having at least one front surface, facing a user viewing the display, side edge faces and a rear surface opposite to the front surface,

b) wherein the digital computer is adapted to receive an input module detachably connected to the digital computer via at least one interface, the input module being provided with at least one input means which may be operated on the rear surface.

c) wherein the digital computer has a coupling bay which detachably receives the input module so that it can be reached from at least two surfaces.

115. (Previously Presented) The digital computer as claimed in claim 114, wherein the input module may be turned with respect to the housing in a turning operation between a first position and a second position of two opposite positions such that input means being operable from the rear surface in said first position may be operated from the front surface after the input module having been turned to said second position.

116. (Previously Presented) The digital computer as claimed in claim 115, wherein turning operation of the input module from the first position to the second position or vice versa is executed outside the housing of the digital computer.

117. (Previously Presented) The digital computer as claimed in claim 115, wherein turning operation of the input module from the first position to the second position or vice versa is executed inside the housing of the digital computer.

118. (Previously Presented) The digital computer as claimed in claim 114, wherein the input module is usable as an external mouse device in a third position when it is mechanically decoupled from the digital computer.

119. (Cancelled).

120. (Currently Amended) The digital computer as claimed in claim 114, [[119,]] wherein the coupling bay is provided with the at least one interface for connecting the input module.

121. (Currently Amended) The digital computer as claimed in claim 114, [[119,]] wherein the coupling bay is provided with at least one additional interface for connecting further additional equipment with the digital computer rather than the input module.

122. (Previously Presented) The digital computer as claimed in claim 115, wherein at least one of the input module and the digital computer is configured by means of the turning operation.

123. (Previously Presented) The digital computer as claimed in claim 114, wherein the input module is constructed as at least one of

- a special module having a joystick,
- a chip card receiving module,
- an adapter card module for network connections and other system expansion modules,
- a module for receiving and/or transmitting satellite signals,
- a telecommunication module,
- a position finding module (GPS, Galileo),
- a mobile radio telephone,
- a PDA,

- a remote control,
- a USB or FireWire interface module,
- a display module with pin and/or key input,
- a media player, and
- a laser pointer.

124. (Previously Presented) The digital computer as claimed in claim 114, wherein the at least one of inputting and manipulating of information by means of the input module comprises means for performing at least one of the functions from the following group of functions :

- inputting of relative location data for controlling a cursor on the display of the digital computer by a corresponding movement of a hand or of at least one finger of a hand of a user,

- inserting of menus and selection information,
- paging,
- scrolling
- switching into another operating mode,
- setting up at least one of device and software characteristics,
- providing information on the display,
- selecting information on the display,
- at least one of selecting and marking information displayed on the display,
- moving information displayed on the display,
- confirming marked information or information input,
- inputting PIN or password information,
- switching the digital computer on and off,
- switching the screen on and off,
- activating and deactivating of a pen input mode, and
- activating and deactivating of an energy saving mode.

125. (Previously Presented) The digital computer as claimed in claim 114, wherein the input module, as operating element, has at least one of a slide pad, a key, a jog dial, a rollerball, a capacitive sensor, a pressure-sensitive screen, a multifunction key, a 4-WAY rocker key and other keys.

126. (Previously Presented) The digital computer as claimed in claim 114, wherein the digital computer and the input module have a plurality of input means which are operatable in combination for inputting.

127. (Previously Presented) The digital computer as claimed in claim 114, wherein the digital computer has a rear coupling bay on its rear surface; wherein the input module is removable and insertable into the rear coupling bay and a second coupling bay on the front surface, and is an operable as external mouse module in a mechanically decoupled state.

128. (Previously Presented) The digital computer as claimed in claim 114, wherein the operating mode of at least one of the input means and of the display are settable in dependence on at least one of the configuration of the input module and the input module attitude or position.

129. (Previously Presented) The digital computer as claimed in claim 114, wherein the input module has its own battery which, in the connected state, is chargeable via the mobile digital computer.

130. (Previously Presented) The digital computer as claimed in claim 114, wherein means for establishing an effective coupling between the digital computer and the input module for data transmission by at least one of a radio signal, an infrared signal and in wire-connected manner is provided.

131. (Previously Presented) The digital computer as claimed in claim 114, wherein at least one interface of the input module provides both for power supply and data traffic.

132. (Previously Presented) The digital computer as claimed in claim 114, wherein the input module has means for switching, when mechanically decoupled, to a wireless data connection and remains effective as external input module.

133. (Previously Presented) The digital computer as claimed in claim 114, wherein at least one of the display and inputting means of the digital computer are blocked in an inoperative status when the input module is removed from the digital computer and brought into a certain distance apart from the digital computer.

134. (Currently Amended) The A digital computer as claimed in claim 114, having at least one display for displaying information, exhibiting, comprising:

a) a housing having at least one front surface, facing a user viewing the display, side edge faces and a rear surface opposite to the front surface ,

b) wherein the digital computer is adapted to receive an input module detachably connected to the digital computer via at least one interface thereof, the input module being provided with at least one input means; and

c) wherein a plurality of input modules may be used in connection with one are provided for connection to the at least one interface of the digital computer, each input module being dedicated to a certain user and adapted to receive and store user specific access information for getting access to the digital computer or for getting access to specific information or programs stored in the digital computer.